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**ANNAPOLIS AREA EMPLOYEE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.
SENTENCED FOR BANK FRAUD**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that today United States Judge Catherine C. Blake sentenced Joanna L. Cook, age 31, of Edgewater, Maryland, to 37 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release in connection with her guilty plea on June 4, 2004 to one count of bank fraud arising from her theft of approximately \$1,112,000 from her former employer, TeleCommunications Systems, Inc.(TCS). Judge Blake also ordered that Cook pay \$185,000 in restitution to TCS and its insurer, St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Company.

The offices of TCS are located in Annapolis, Maryland. According to the statement of facts introduced by the government at the plea proceeding, beginning sometime in September 2000 and continuing up to October 2003, Cook, an employee in the accounts payable section of TCS, employed three methods to carry out a scheme to steal monies from TCS by manipulating the accounts payable system. First, Cook posted false vouchers to the company's general ledger and then cut checks for these vouchers to pay for her own personal liabilities. Second, Cook would enter

a false invoice against a valid TCS vendor, change the vendor name prior to printing the check, print the check making it payable to herself or a company to whom she had a personal liability and then change the vendor name prior to posting it to the general ledger. Finally, Cook would enter a valid invoice from a TCS vendor, change the name of the vendor prior to printing the check to either her own name or that of a company to whom she owed money, and then, after the check was cut, change the vendor name back prior to posting the general ledger.

In October 2003, the assistant Controller and the accounting supervisor at TCS discovered that Cook had altered three checks totaling \$129,000 by making each payable to “J. Cook.” Each of these checks was endorsed by Cook. Confronted, Cook admitted to the fraud, but stated that these were the only funds that she had stolen. A subsequent review of the TCS system revealed the three year pattern of theft totaling \$1,112,000 of TCS funds under the custody of Mellon Bank.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephen M. Schenning.